



## MINUTES

### CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 10, 2020

**9:30 a.m.**

Charlotte County Administration Center

18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119

Port Charlotte, FL 33948

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

**Chair Ireland** called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Upon the roll being called it was determined a quorum was present.

3. Chairman's Comments

A. REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE: PLEASE SIGN IN. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes. A clipboard and a pen are provided on the podium for your convenience.

B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION and TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes

C. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS, STAFF AND VISITORS TO PLEASE SILENCE THEIR CELL PHONES.

4. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None offered.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from March 5, 2020  
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from March 12, 2020.  
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

C. FY21 MAC Grant Application Review – Jim Darden

**Chair Ireland** asked Mr. Darden to go over the Grant report.

**Mr. Darden** said there have been several projects postponed because of Covid-19. If there was a grant for the same thing next year, then the current grant would not carry over. **Mr. Darden** briefed the committee on some actions that occurred while MAC was not meeting during the Covid shutdown.

The Resolution passed for the MAC recommendations. The Waterfest application was approved for \$44,000. They also approved the \$45,000 for the Port Charlotte beach erosion feasibility study at the beach complex. They approved \$25,000 additional funding for marine markers at Pirate Harbor, and \$45,000 for Emergency Maintenance dredge at the Port Charlotte beach complex corridor.

As for the grant agreements – he drafted all the grant agreements and distributed them to the applicants for signature. They should come back by the end of the month. The new grant period starts October 1, 2020. Multiple extensions were requested due to Covid and other reasons. They are noted on the first page of the report.

**Mike Savino** asked about the marine markers at Pirate Harbor, are they starting to fix them up? Because they are dredging the channel and it is rough when coming out of the Eagles pass.

**Mr. Darden** said he did not know the specifics of the project. He said Matt should be able to answer that question.

**John Welsh** asked about our money being given to an organization, who turns around and gives the money to someone else.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said he remembers this and one of the conditions was the economic impact of the involvement of hundreds of volunteers in the community that participated in the program in many ways to help raise funds for the organization. He believes this request passed unanimously. This is an advisory group and sometimes the Commission has other information and may make a decision different from your input. The majority of the time, the Commission votes the way this advisory board suggests.

**Mr. Savino** said he understands, but there was money given to other groups (sea grant) and more money was given than was originally planned.

**Gerald Wilson** said we can all remember when we could not buy a boat, then the Commission overruled us and bought a boat for the Sheriff. That started the downslide of now everyone needs a new boat. But I'm wondering, we did not turn down the waterfest because it was a private profit making arrangement, so can we expect if we get more of these profit private grants coming, should we go ahead and approve them?

**Commissioner Deutsch** said they are a not for profit group and if they end up in the black, they distribute that money to other groups that serve or are involved in the community. He wanted this board to know the Commission usually always follows your recommendations.

**Mr. Bigness** said he is on the Planning & Zoning Board and we have voted many times unanimously and when the item goes to the BCC, they voted reverse from what we voted. He asked if some of these funds were in kind or given by the Sheriff?

**Mr. Darden** said no, they are all water related in some manner associated with the nationals.

**Matt Logan** said he will run through the MSBU's and then separate projects.

Alligator Creek – there is no active project right now but we did just finish up the realignment of the channel for the urban impacts following the cut through from Punta Gorda that we were out of line. The channel existed but it wasn't in the marked channel so we put together an emergency spot dredge out there.

Buena Vista – we came back to the emergency dredge for Sunrise channel out here, they are currently working on it on this side of the pier. We are looking for long term solutions for this whole area.

Edgewater North - there are no projects currently.

Gulf Cove Waterway - we finished up the outer channels last year, now we are trying to put together an interior dredge for them. We are in negotiations to get this scheduled.

Harbour Heights – there are no active projects but they are part of our annual map survey and they are in negotiations with the consultant. We have about 6 different waterways we blanketed under one contract.

Manchester Waterway – we are actively working right now. They worked their way in and are at the Como waterway. They are ahead of schedule. It is an interesting project because it is the first one we have taken our dredge soils and backfilled the deepest holes. About half of the materials is going into the boat basin just off of Lewis Creek.

NW Port Charlotte – we are working on putting together a dredge in that area for the past year. We finally got the survey and design work done, then the pandemic came about and we got very little MSBU interaction with them until recently. Right now, we are just waiting on their approval to move forward with that.

Peace River Shores – there is no active project.

Pirate Harbor – we completed this project almost a year ago and we are working to try and get the channel markers realigned. We came back in to get some grant funding for the installation of these but due to the pandemic, the contractor has just had a crazy schedule and it is difficult for them to get their supplies. I spoke with them yesterday and they are backordered. They are ready to go just waiting on the materials to arrive. We need to realign the markers but we also have the seagrass mitigation in areas that we have to sign and place buoys up.

**Mr. Logan** said the upcoming pre-storm barometric survey, we will be investigating the entire system not just the access channel but all of the interior canals, and Pirate Harbor is included.

South Gulf Cove - we are doing some engineering of the boat basin, the entrance canal and boat basin in South Gulf Cove. We are waiting on some MSBU direction but we have a firm on board to go out and do the survey design.

South Gulf Cove parallel lock – we are seeing some good movement right now – we are at 90% plans for the overall design but they are at about 60% for the electrical and mechanical components. It is moving forward and it appears SWFWMD's intent is to issue a permit.



Suncoast – no active work but they are included in the pre-count service.

Switching over to the beach projects – We just finished up on the Englewood beach.

For Manasota Key and South Beach - the post construction work they have done during the annual monitoring survey's and the recording is underway. They have also done the Stump Pass monitoring survey's and they are waiting on the aerial sub-contractor to them and the rectified photographs so they can make their presentations.

The shore birds are complete and the sea turtle monitoring is on-going.

Stump Pass – they have the current task of doing the seagrass survey and the 3 year assessment of the terminal drawing. They are evaluating the channel and they are looking at the schedule for the next dredge. They did perform channel survey's, put together that data, and found the channel has maintained a limiting depth of minus 5. It has shifted a little further south. We were working on getting the channel markers moved out there. I tried to get a hold of Signs and Marking to confirm that was done, but they have not replied to my email yet. When we started to investigate the entrance to ski alley, they collected the data and one thing they saw in this channel assessment, is if we have to go forward and do a dredge this year, then we most likely would not be able to address ski alley during this time.

**Capt. Blago** asked when you talk about the entrance to Stump Pass, are you referring to the gulf entrance or the bay entrance?

**Mr. Logan** said he meant to say ski alley not stump pass. Where ski alley enters into the channel proper to go out, it has gotten narrower but it is also significantly shallow.

**Capt Blago** said everything to the ICW is filling in and getting narrower.

**Mr. Bigness** said he's been through there a lot and the entrance to ski alley has not changed that much. What did change is the main channel going out of stump pass, that has shifted massively since that drawing. You need to pay attention or you will be on a sand bar.

**Commissioner Deutsch** asked when stump pass was last dredged.

They said 2017.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said he believes they were to dredge every two years, is that correct?

**Mr. Logan** said it was to be every 3 to 4 years.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said he thought it was every 2 years and the end of the drawing system was to bring it to double that.

**Mr. Logan** said they were hoping to get more longevity.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said he had a question about the dock down here. Are they working on the dredging now?

**Mr. Logan** said yes.

**Commissioner Deutsch** asked can we come up with a “mini-drawing system”? We’ve had a guy come in with a metal box and other guy has the pyramid, I have one on my desk. There should be some type of alteration we can make so we don’t have to dredge it once or twice a year. I think we need to look at this and get more of a permanent system. We’re fighting mother nature.

**Mr. Logan** said they are looking into all this.

**Mr. Bigness** asked if there were any plans to dredge by Boca Grande where the railroad trusses old turn bridge used to be and they call it red neck yacht club – that sand bar there. That is filling in. You used to be able to go out both sides of that turn ridge but it’s no longer there. There was a 30 foot boat there a week ago and it was high and dry. In that channel, you have to hug those markers. Has anyone talked about that?

**Mr. Logan** said currently this is not on the radar, but he can ask. He also said there is an ongoing project associated with the Manasota Key beach project, it is the construction of the mitigation reef. The contractor out of Texas mobilized to the area started work on August 6<sup>th</sup>, and to date, they have installed 10.5 to 11 percent of the total 4 acre mitigation reef. It is slow work, they are stationed out of Tampa and have to receive the rock in Tampa and then head back to the site.

**Capt. Blago** asked about the Punta Gorda boats on his list.

**Mr. DeBruler** said he is not going to take them off. He wants this board to know what is going on. He is trying to get a hold of Joseph Devault, the marine officer at Punta Gorda and make sure I am updated on what he is doing. This way everyone including FWC are updated on what is going on around the county.

**Capt. Blago** asked am I correct in assuming come Oct 1 we are no longer financially responsible for the permit?

**Mr. DeBruler** said you are correct. We will no longer be pulling his boats. He has his own contractor.

**Mr. Ireland** asked if Tina Power has any reports?

**Tina Powell, Natural Resources** said at Ainger Creek park, we are still working on the redevelopment. This is being managed by Facilities. At Allapatchee, Facilities is still managing the Irma restoration project from the erosion. The Placida 2014 sales tax project, Travis will come up and speak on that. The Port Charlotte beach sailing center is in progress. Also being managed by Facilities and Matt still has the dredge and renourishment.

**Capt. Blago** said he had questions building from the months we had not met. At the Ainger’s Creek parking kiosk, it is all backed up. What do you do if you don’t have a cell phone?

**Ms. Powell** said they can get a parking pass from one of those mini center/recreation centers. This was decided by the Board because we do not have the manpower to sanitize.

**Capt. Blago** asked who is in charge of tickets?

**Ms. Powell** said the Sheriff's department.

**Capt. Blago** said regarding the Placida Fishing pier parking lot, he took a friend down there to go fishing and there were no parking spots. There is not enough parking for kayaker's and people who want to use the pier. People also park in this area for the walking trails.

**Ms. Powell** said at this time, the County does not have any money to buy additional land for parking.

**Capt. Blago** said the restrooms are closed at the beaches. You know where the people will go? Why did they close the restrooms?

**Ms. Powell** said there was not enough staff to stay there to sanitize the restrooms. We do not clean the port-o-lets. We were following CDC guidelines.

## 7. New Business

**Chair Ireland** said we have a few members who have resigned and we are looking for replacements. We have a recommendation from the boat clubs. Mr. Edward Nowak is replacing James Ellsworth from the Burnt Store Isles boat club. Mr. George Bopko has also resigned. The replacements need to fill out an application and include a resume.

**Chair Ireland** also said there are 8 members who membership on this board will be expiring by the end of this year. Please take one of these applications home and fill them out. You have to return it with a resume and they will get you on the December 2020 BCC agenda.

## 8. Old Business

**Chair Ireland** said they raised the question a long time ago about the harbor weather stations. We had one and it did not tag with the radio and work, so we got another one. I'm looking for an update on this situation if anyone has one.

**Ron Jones, project liaison for the weather station installation** said Marker 4 was installed, was working then had radio failure with that particular station. The spare we have is ready to be installed, just waiting on coordination between the weather, Covid-19 and the people who will be installing the replacement station. For Marker 2, there were many correspondence with the coast guard, coast guard H navigation teams has endorsed installation on Marker 2. The H navigation officer sector St. Pete, has endorsed installation. His request was sent to district Miami civil engineering unit. We have contacted them many times and so far, have not issued a memo of approval. Until it is approved, installation will not happen.

**Chair Ireland** asked what is the distance between Marker 2 and 4?

**Mr. Jones** said possibly 2.5 to 3 miles.

**Chair Ireland** asked is there a need for a second weather station 2 or 3 miles away?



**Mr. Jones** said for Marker 2? Marker 2 will give a more representative flow for wind flow over Charlotte Harbor. Marker 4 is more representative for wind over Peace River. There could be a significant difference.

**Mike McIntosh** said it has been almost 3 years since Marker 4 has worked. Is there some reason why it is taking so long to get this to work?

**Mr. Jones** said he has volunteers with the appropriate boats to go out, it's getting out there and coordinating the staffing to do it.

**Henry Killion** asked if the BCC could help to get Miami to move along quicker.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said get me a copy of the minutes, he will see if he can nudge it along. If he gets a copy of the minutes, he can attach them to the next correspondence to Miami.

9. Other Business

**Mr. Ireland** said some of you may not know, but South Gulf Cove community has a lock. It does a number of things, but number 1, it maintains the water level at a pretty good rate, and it requires some activation to get through it when you go in or out of the community. At some time, we had activated a remote control, like a garage door opener, you could open the lock before you went in, and you could close it remotely and drive out and close it remotely behind you. There was an accident, a lock closed on a sailboat and damaged it. He blamed somebody with a remote but there was no one there. There was a member of his party up on the land operating the panel and they had the ability to close the lock on the boat. The lock was shut down. We have a large investment in remote controls that we had already activated. We stopped selling them when it was closed. The ageing people in the community and using the lock by yourself makes it far more difficult getting in and out of the lock, which is our life thread. We need to get the locks turned back on. It's just a matter of flipping a switch.

**Commissioner Deutsch** suggested this Committee write up an agreement from this group and send it to Administration to open up the lock. The MAC committee recommends reopening the lock as soon as possible.

**Mr. Bigness** said he would like to make a motion that this Marine Advisory Committee write a letter to Administration to open up the lock and reinstituting the use of the remote control system. **Roger Strube** seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

10. Citizen Comments

None offered.

11. Good of the Order

**Robert Hickey** asked if we are going to meet in this room for the foreseeable future, I see microphone jacks on the wall, is there any way we can get 2 microphones, one for the main speaker and one for questions?

**Mr. Ireland** said he hopes everyone had a decent summer.

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the **BCS Large Conference Room**.

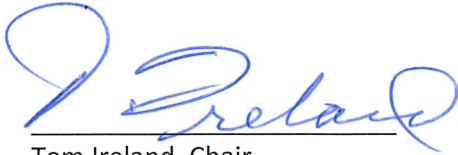
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in **Port Charlotte Beach Complex**.

13. Adjournment

**Mr. Strube** made a motion to adjourn, second by **Mr. Killion**, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes Approved

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Ireland", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Ireland, Chair